

Surah 90 Surah Balad

THE CITY

THE LINK BETWEEN SURAH BALAD AND SURAH FAJR

Surah Balad serves as an epilogue to *Surah Fajr*. *Surah Fajr* condemned excessive love of this world. *Surah Balad* counsels man about where this wealth should be spent. The *Surah* conveys the message that wealth should not merely be accumulated, but it should be spent in the way that Allaah has ordained. There will be no virtue in spending one's wealth in wrong ways. In addition, spending in correct causes will also be worthless when the person spending is not a *Mu'min*.

A SUMMARY OF THE SURAH

The first four verses of the *Surah* warn people about the harmful repercussions of sins in this very world. The essence of this message is that Allaah reserves the right to put people through hardships if He chooses to do so.

In verses 5 to 16, Allaah censures man for thinking that no one has any power over man. Allaah also tells people that all their praiseworthy financial contributions will be worthless if they do not possess Imaan. Verse 17 cautions people that they should first be *Mu'mineen* before spending on the deserving ones mentioned earlier in the *Surah*.

“These are the people of the right.” Here Allaah praises those people who spend for the correct causes while in the state of Imaan. Allaah declares that they will be included among the **“people of the right”** who are guaranteed entry into *Jannah*. The last three verses of the *Surah* speak about the **“people of the left”** who are destined for *Jahannam*.

سُورَةُ الْبَلَدِ مَكِّيَّةٌ وَهِيَ عَشْرُونَ آيَةً

بِسْمِ اللَّهِ الرَّحْمَنِ الرَّحِيمِ

In the name of Allaah, the Most Compassionate, the Most Merciful

لَا أُقْسِمُ بِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ۝

1. I swear by this city (of Makkah)...

وَأَنْتَ حِلٌّ لِهَذَا الْبَلَدِ ۝

2. ...and you (O Rasulullaah ﷺ) shall be free (of restrictions) in this city (when you conquer it). (This verse foretold the conquest of Makkah, which occurred in the 8th year after the Hijrah.)

وَوَالِدٍ وَمَا وَلَدٍ ۝

3. (I swear) By the father (Aadam عليه السلام) and the offspring (mankind) !

لَقَدْ خَلَقْنَا الْإِنْسَانَ فِي كَبَدٍ ۝

4. We have certainly created man in toil. (Together with working hard to see to his own needs and those of his family, man also faces many difficulties and calamities during his life. While engaged in this, he has to ensure that he is always follows the injunctions of the Shari'ah and obeys the laws of his land. The list is endless.)

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَنْ يَقْدِرَ عَلَيْهِ أَحَدٌ ۝

وقف لام

5. Does man think that none shall ever have power over him (to take him to task for the wrongs he does) ?

يَقُولُ أَهْلَكْتُ مَا لَا بَدَأْتُ ۝

6. He says (boasts), "I have wasted wealth in abundance (to oppose Islaam and the Muslims)."

أَيَحْسَبُ أَنْ لَمْ يَرَهُ أَحَدٌ ۝

7. Does he think that none sees him? (Allaah sees all that he does and will punish him for it.)

أَلَمْ يَجْعَلْ لَّهُ عَيْنَيْنِ ۙ^٨

8. (He does all of this despite the fact that Allaah gave him all the bounties he enjoys. Questioning his ingratitude, Allaah says,) **Have We not given him two eyes...**

وَلِسَانًا وَشَفَتَيْنِ ۙ^٩

9. ...a tongue, and two lips...(for talking and eating)

وَهَدَيْنَاهُ النَّجْدَيْنِ ۚ^{١٠}

10. ...and showed him the two paths (of right and wrong so that he may choose which path he wishes to follow)?

فَلَا اقْتَحَمَ الْعَقَبَةَ ۚ^{١١}

11. For what reason does man not emerge from the abyss (where he is constantly fighting Shaytaan and his Nafs, both of whom are doing their utmost to mislead him)?

وَمَا أَدْرَاكَ مَا الْعَقَبَةُ ۚ^{١٢}

12. What will inform you what (emerging from) the abyss entails?

فَأُرْهِقْ رَقَبَةً ۙ^{١٣}

13. It entails setting slaves free...

أَوْ اطْعَمْ فِي يَوْمٍ ذِي مَسْغَبَةٍ ۙ^{١٤}

14. ...or, on a day of hunger (during times of need), feeding...

يَتِيمًا ذَا مَقْرَبَةٍ ۙ^{١٥}

15. ...an orphaned relative...

أَوْ مَسْكِينًا ذَا مَتْرَبَةٍ ۚ^{١٦}

16. ...or a dust-covered destitute.

تُمْكِّنَ مِنَ الَّذِينَ آمَنُوا وَتَوَاعَصُوا بِالصَّبْرِ وَتَوَاعَصُوا بِالْمَرْحَمَةِ ۝١٧

17. Then *(above all, it entails)* becoming of those who have Imaan, those who encourage each other to be patient and those who encourage each other to be compassionate *(merciful)*.

أُولَٰئِكَ أَصْحَابُ الْمَيْمَنَةِ ۝١٨

18. These *(people who do these good deeds)* are the people of the right *(who will receive their records of actions in their right hands on the Day of Qiyaamah)*.

وَالَّذِينَ كَفَرُوا بِآيَاتِنَا هُمْ أَصْحَابُ الْمَشْأَمَةِ ۝١٩

19. (On the other hand) Those who reject Our Aayaat are certainly the people of the left *(who will receive their records of actions in their left hands on the Day of Qiyaamah)*.

عَلَيْهِمْ نَارُ مُؤَصَّدَةٍ ۝٢٠

20. The Fire *(of Jahannam)* will be shut over them *(so that they cannot escape)*.

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